

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording medium substrate for an optical disc including a light-transmitting layer disposed on at least one of surfaces of the recording medium substrate, wherein the recording medium substrate has a circumferential recess formed radially outside the data recording region on one of the surfaces of the recording medium substrate.

2. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 1, wherein a radially outermost edge of the recess on one of the surfaces is lower than a radially innermost edge of the recess as viewed along the thickness of the recording medium substrate.

3. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 1, wherein the radially outermost edge of the recess on one of the surfaces is lower than the radially innermost edge of the recess and is higher than a deepest point of the recess as viewed in the thickness of the recording medium substrate.

4. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 2, wherein the radially outermost edge of the recess on one of the surfaces is lower than the radially innermost edge of the recess and is higher than a deepest point of the recess as viewed in the thickness of the recording medium substrate.

5. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 1, wherein the recess has a depth that gradually decreases as it extends radially outward from the deepest point, the recess substantially smoothly continues to a peripheral region thereof so that the peripheral region has saw-tooth shape in its radial cross-section.

6. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 2, wherein the recess has a depth that gradually decreases as it extends radially outward from the deepest point, the recess substantially smoothly continues to a peripheral region thereof so that the peripheral region has saw-tooth shape in its radial cross-section.

7. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 3, wherein the recess has a depth that gradually decreases as it extends radially outward from the deepest point, the recess substantially smoothly continues to a peripheral region thereof so that the peripheral region has saw-tooth shape in its radial cross-section.

8. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 1, wherein the radially innermost edge of the recess is positioned at a distance of  $0.965d$  from the center of the substrate or further, preferably  $0.975d$  or further, and more preferably  $0.983d$  or further, assuming  $d$  is the radius of the outermost circumference of the substrate.

9. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 2, wherein the radially innermost edge of the recess is positioned at a distance of  $0.965d$  from the center of the substrate or further, preferably  $0.975d$  or further, and more preferably  $0.983d$  or further, assuming  $d$  is the radius of the outermost circumference of the substrate.

10. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 3, wherein the radially innermost edge of the recess is positioned at a distance of  $0.965d$  from the center of the substrate or further, preferably  $0.975d$  or further, and more preferably  $0.983d$  or further, assuming  $d$  is the radius of the outermost circumference of the substrate.

11. The recording medium substrate for an optical disc according to claim 5, wherein the radially innermost edge of the recess is positioned at a distance of  $0.965d$  from the center of the substrate or further, preferably  $0.975d$  or further, and more preferably  $0.983d$  or further, assuming  $d$  is the radius of the outermost circumference of the substrate.